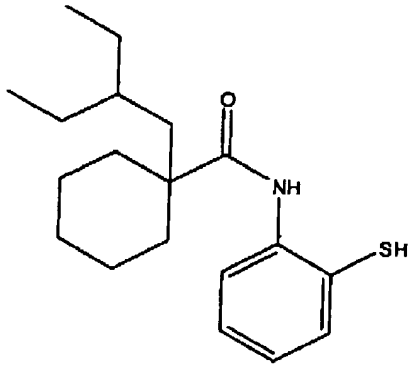
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

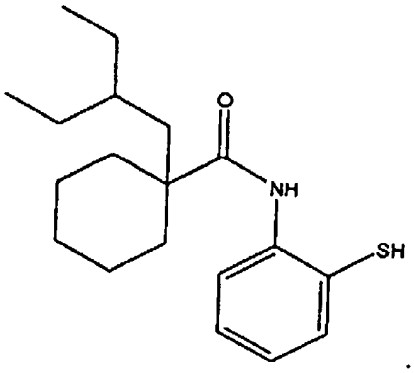
This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1.-18. (Canceled)

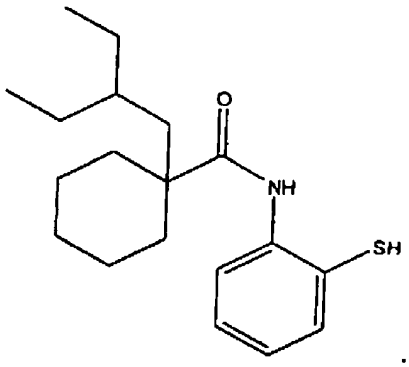
19. (New) A compound selected from the group consisting of (a)



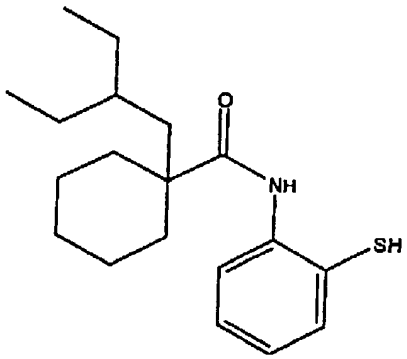
and (b) pharmaceutically acceptable salts, hydrates, and solvates of



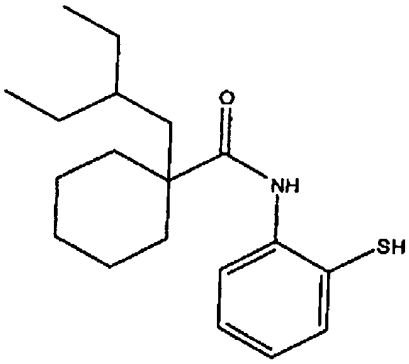
20. (New) The compound of claim 19, wherein the compound is



21. (New) A composition comprising (i) a compound selected from the group consisting of (a)

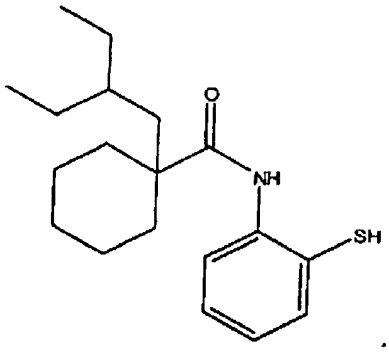


and (b) pharmaceutically acceptable salts, hydrates, and solvates of



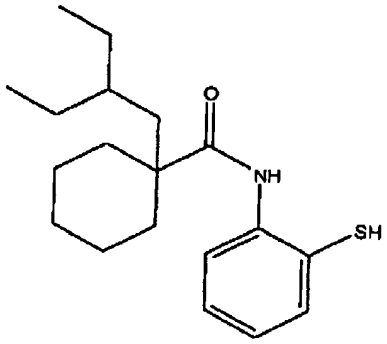
and (ii) a pharmacologically acceptable carrier.

22. (New) The composition of claim 21, wherein the compound is

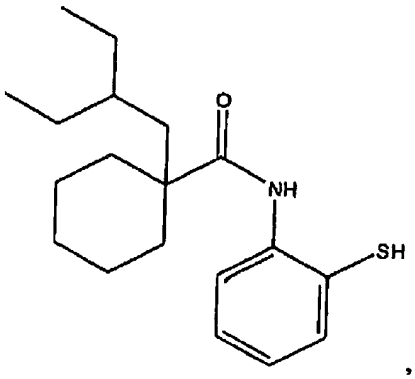


23. (New) A method of inhibiting cholesterol ester transfer protein (CETP) activity in a patient, which method comprises administering to the patient a composition comprising

(i) a compound selected from the group consisting of (a)



and (b) pharmaceutically acceptable salts, hydrates, and solvates of

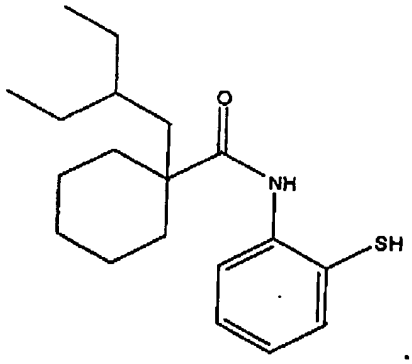


, and

(ii) a pharmacologically acceptable carrier,

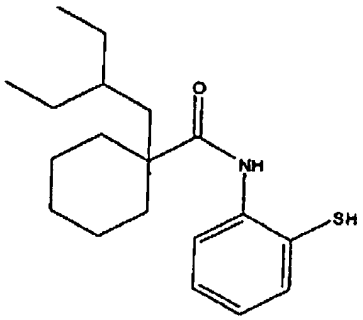
whereby CETP activity is inhibited in the patient.

24. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the compound is

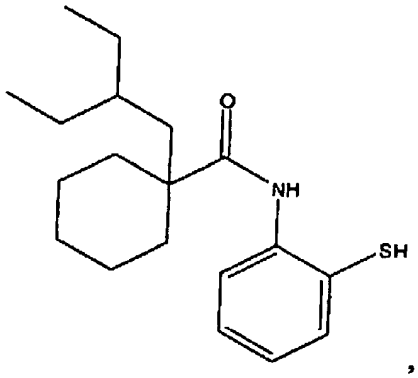


25. (New) A method of increasing high density lipoprotein (HDL) in a patient, which method comprises administering to the patient a composition comprising

(i) a compound selected from the group consisting of (a)



and (b) pharmaceutically acceptable salts, hydrates, and solvates of

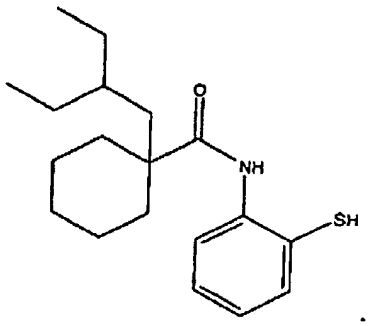


, and

(ii) a pharmacologically acceptable carrier,

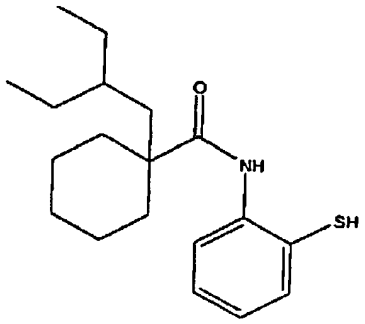
whereby HDL is increased in the patient.

26. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the compound is

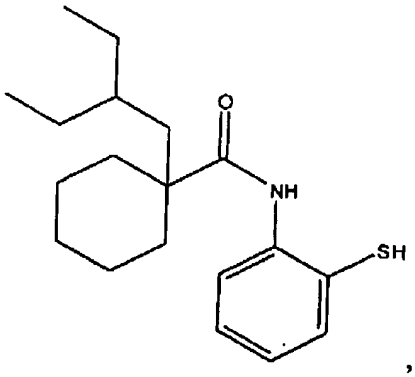


27. (New) A method of treating or preventing atherosclerosis in a patient, which method comprises administering to the patient a composition comprising

(i) a compound selected from the group consisting of (a)



and (b) pharmaceutically acceptable salts, hydrates, and solvates of

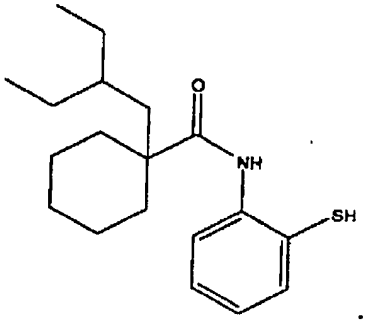


, and

(ii) a pharmacologically acceptable carrier,

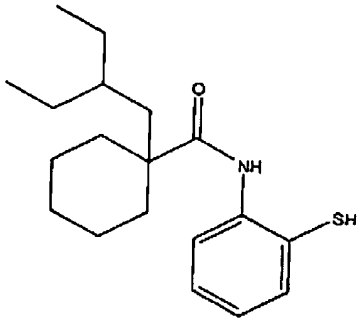
whereby atherosclerosis is treated or prevented in the patient.

28. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the compound is

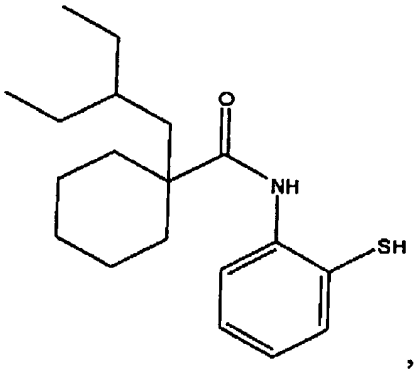


29. (New) A method of treating or preventing hyperlipidemia in a patient, which method comprises administering to the patient a composition comprising

(i) a compound selected from the group consisting of (a)



and (b) pharmaceutically acceptable salts, hydrates, and solvates of

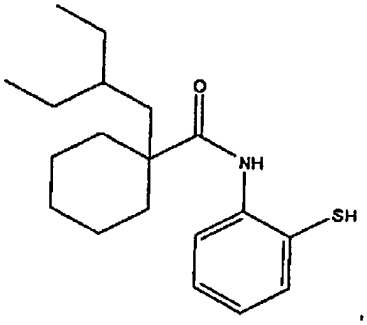


, and

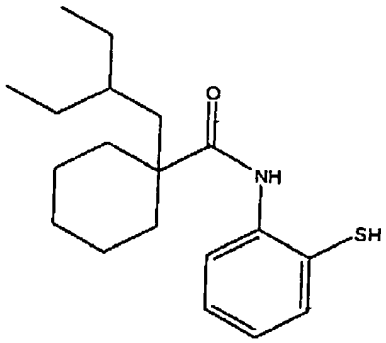
(ii) a pharmacologically acceptable carrier,

whereby hyperlipidemia is treated or prevented in the patient.

30. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein the compound is

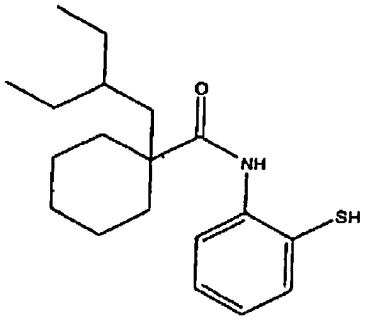


31. (New) A method of inhibiting cholesterol ester transfer protein (CETP) activity in a patient, which method comprises providing



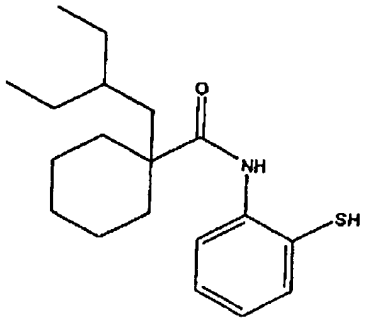
in vivo, whereby CETP activity is inhibited in the patient.

32. (New) A method of increasing high density lipoprotein (HDL) in a patient, which method comprises providing



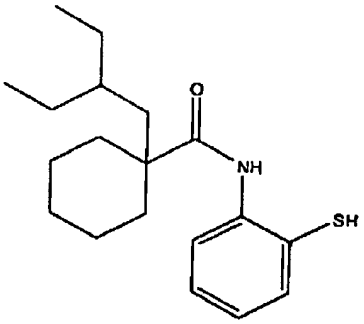
in vivo, whereby HDL is increased in the patient.

33. (New) A method of treating or preventing atherosclerosis in a patient, which method comprises providing



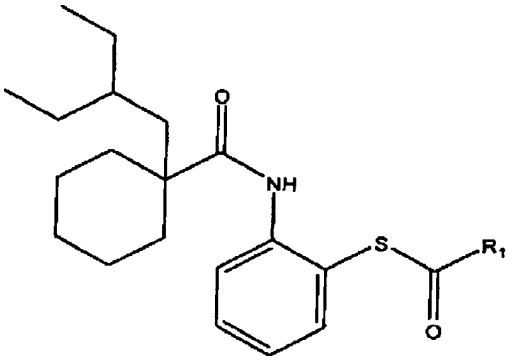
in vivo, whereby atherosclerosis is treated or prevented in the patient.

34. (New) A method of treating or preventing hyperlipidemia in a patient, which method comprises providing



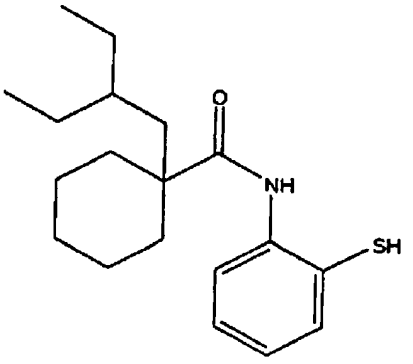
in vivo, whereby hyperlipidemia is treated or prevented in the patient.

35. (New) A method of preparing a compound of formula (1)



(1)

wherein R_1 is C_{1-10} alkyl, wherein the method comprises reacting



with an acid halide of formula (2)

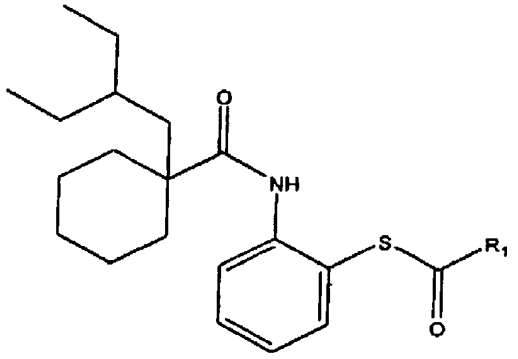
$$R_1C(O)X \qquad (2)$$

in the presence of a base, wherein R_1 is as described above and X is Cl, Br, or I.

36. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein the reaction is conducted in the presence of an organic solvent, water, or a mixture thereof.

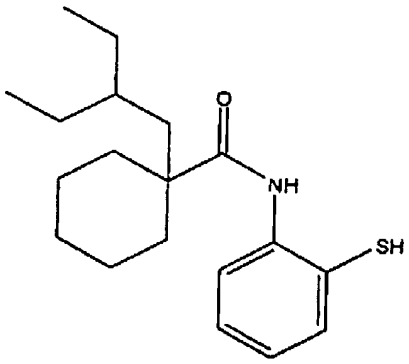
37. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein R_1 is $-CH(CH_3)_2$.

38. (New) A method of preparing a compound of formula (1)



(1)

wherein R_1 is C_{1-10} alkyl, wherein the method comprises reacting



with an organic acid of formula (3)

$$R_1C(O)YH \qquad (3)$$

in the presence of a coupling agent, wherein R_1 is as described above and Y is O or S.

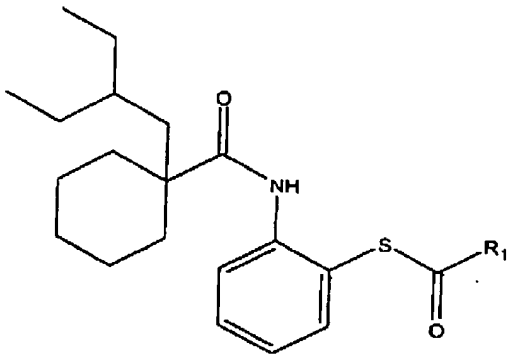
39. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein the reaction is conducted in the presence of an activating agent.

40. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein the reaction is conducted in the presence of an organic solvent.

41. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein the reaction is conducted in the presence of a base.

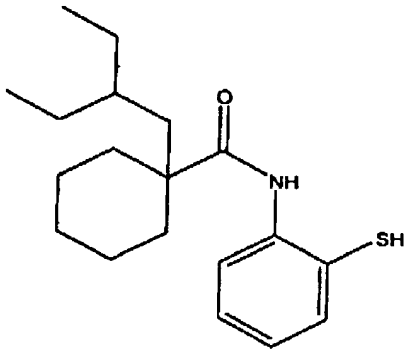
42. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein R_1 is $-CH(CH_3)_2$.

43. (New) A method of preparing a compound of formula (1)



(1)

wherein R_1 is C_{1-10} alkyl, wherein the method comprises reacting



with a carboxylic acid of formula (4)

$$R_1CO_2H \qquad (4)$$

in the presence of a base and ethyl chlorocarbonate, wherein R_1 is as described above.

44. (New) The method of claim 43, wherein the reaction is conducted in the presence of an organic solvent.

45. (New) The method of claim 43, wherein R_1 is $-CH(CH_3)_2$.